

Federal Landscape





Congressional updates

- ESEA Reauthorization
 - House and Senate Conference
 - 1. “Gang of Four” meeting last week of July; Positive messages, but still many differences
 - 2. Democrats likely to push for greater accountability, including Lowest 5%, Grad rate below 67%, 12 interventions
 - 3. Many differences remain:
 - MOE, Supplanting
 - Portability
 - Opt-Outs
 - Burr Funding Formula
 - Appropriations Cap
 - Timing overall – may be possible to get a bill done before end of the year, but deal between House GOP and Dems is an uphill battle.



Differences

- MOE and Supplanting
 - Modify or eliminate?
- Portability
 - Changes the definition of a Title I student
- Opt-Outs
 - Sanctions on schools?
- Burr Funding Formula
 - Related to portability and drops current funding formulas; amendment – kicks in above \$17 billion
- Appropriations Cap – sequestration



Appropriations progress

- Only 3 weeks to finish work in September – end of federal fiscal year
- CR likely - Clean vs. Cuts
- Budget Deal on sequestration?
- Final omnibus likely closer to Senate numbers?
- Cut to Early Childhood /Preschool grants
- Targeting administration's grant programs; support for IDEA and Title I steady (WH wants increases)



- Other Legislative Priorities
 - Child Nutrition (NSLP) - Programs expire on September 30; expect markup next month; will pass
 - REINS Act - Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny - Congressional Approval of “Major” Regulations; will not pass
- Iran agreement
- Presidential politics

From ED - Administration Updates



- **Schoolwide guidance** - similar to previous guidance but changed format
- **ESEA Flexibility Extensions** - 26 States so far
- OSEP MOE Guidance - Reiterates ED's position on reducing allocation in subsequent years
- **UGG** Implementation – no major comments
 - ED comments on False Claims Certification
 - New Faith-Based Organizations NPRM
 - Food and conferences memo
- USDA: CEP Expansion
- Alternate Assessment changes – released last week

Joint Summer Meeting



Office of State Support and Office of Special Education Programs

State program staff included:

Titles I, II, III, plus School Improvement, and SPED

Opportunity to look at collaboration model

– Leading by Convening

Program Updates – access on the Directors' Meeting web page materials for this meeting

Release of Schoolwide Guidance

OSS Updates: School Improvement Grant

- The Department published new regulations on February 9, 2015
 - www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/index.html
 - The final requirements include seven models :
 - four existing models: (1) Turnaround; (2) Transformation; (3) Restart; and (4) Closure and three new models: (5) State-determined; (6) Early Learning; and (7) evidence-based, whole school reform
 - Five States (Colorado, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, and Texas) submitted a State determined model
 - The Department approved four evidence-based, **whole-school reform models**:
 - Success for All,
 - Institute for Student Achievement Whole-School Reform Model,
 - Positive Action, and
 - Small Schools of Choice

ESEA Flexibility Update

Approved August 6, 2015

- Combination of amendments and renewal
- Approval is through end of 2015-16 school year; progress on OCR issue = 2 more years
- No changes to Principle 3 - condition satisfied and guidelines for Educator Evaluation are approved; student growth on AzMERIT must be included when available
- Principle 1 – assessments updated

- Principle 2 – largely rewritten
 - Removed A-F from Reward, Priority and Focus criteria; updated criteria; ensure Reward≠Focus
 - Implement accountability based on AzMERIT after the second year of scores available
 - Alternative and small schools accountability outlined
 - Reset AMOs – reduce # of students not proficient by 2020 (by half)
 - Exit criteria for Focus and Priority
 - Interventions for online Priority schools adjusted